

WANDERERS OPEN UP A FOUR POINT LEAD

WYCOMBE Wanderers put early-season pacesetters Bromley firmly in their place on Saturday and in doing so went four points clear at the top of the Rothmans Isthmian League table.

Wanderers went to Bromley on Saturday to face a side who had scored no less than 15 goals in four games, including two five goal victories. All in all they had netted £120 from the sponsors and the visitors' task looked a tough one.

For the first 45 minutes, Bromley looked well worth their second place in the table. They ran busily and effectively and caused the Wycombe defence many anxious moments. But the key factor on Saturday, lay with the elements.

A strong wind from one end of the ground to the other gave Bromley a distinct advantage in the first half but despite going desperately close at times, they couldn't score. Wycombe, with the breeze in the second half, exploited it to the full, scoring two goals in the process through Tony Brothers and Tony Horseman (again).

One change was made from the side that beat Leatherhead in midweek, Phil Wood returning alongside Dave Bullock at number four, instead of the taller Peter Anderson. The exclusion of Anderson made life a little more difficult for Dave Wright. Wycombe's diminutive goalkeeper, but Wood and Bullock looked more compact as the game progressed.

In midfield, Rob Williams again made his presence felt and although Brothers tired in the later stages he was in the right place at the right time to score the crucial opening goal. Larry

Pritchard, playing a roving role between the front two and mid-field, looked in better form than of late.

In the first half, however, Wycombe struggled to find any cohesion. They were rarely given enough time to promote attacks and spent all the half on the defensive.

'Pele' type shot from 40 odd yards but Wright was able to rush back and gather.

Wycombe weathered these early attacks and came back when Holfield curled a left footer just over and then Horseman latched onto Barbeiri's poor pass back but dallied too long with his shot. It

floated a precise cross to the far post. The ball sailed over Searle's head and straight to Brothers, steaming in like a train. The blond midfielder cannoned the ball into the roof of the net, giving 'keeper Grafton no earthly chance of saving.

But two minutes later Grafton

"Bodger" was later to make amends.

Bromley tried in vain for an equaliser but their first half menace gradually petered out. The back four looked far more compact with Bullock and Wood by now easily cutting out the crosses.

Wright, who gained in con-

By STUART EARP; Bromley 0, Wycombe Wanderers 2.

It was easy to see why Bromley had met with so much success in their early matches. Full of running and enthusiasm, they strung short passes together neatly and found many gaps in the visitors' defence.

Wright's lack of height was exposed in the 13th minute when Collins' long cross went over the 'keeper's arms and struck the crossbar. Two corners two minutes later again had the 'keeper in difficulties, the visitors' defence failing to clear cleanly on both occasions.

The confidence of Bromley was emphasised when Wright's weak goalkick into the wind was picked up by Brown who tried a

was not long before Bromley returned to the attack and Wright did well to get down to Allinson's low drive after 33 minutes.

With big John Mills dominating Searle in the air, a rare feat these days, the Blues front runners were given precious little leeway in the first half which ended with Brown forcing Wright into another competent save.

After a shaky start to the new half, Wycombe at last began to settle down. They forced two corners early on and then took the lead in the 15th minute.

Roger Grant, who had his best game for Wycombe to date,

produced the save of the match. Rob Williams, receiving Brothers' pass some 35 yards out, took careful aim and powered a shot towards the corner of the net only for Grafton to fling himself full length and palm the ball away for a corner.

In the 65th minute Bromley received their first penalty point of the season when hurly centre forward Peter White was booked for a foul on Gamblin.

Four minutes later Tony Horseman should have made it 2-0 when he was left with only Grafton to beat but although doing well to force himself into a scoring position he was unable to control the ball sufficiently and the shot bobbed wide.

fidence all the time, was forced to come out at the feet of substitute Hardy in the 79th minute after a weak pass back. Soon afterwards Mick Holfield was replaced by Peter McGillicuddy, playing his first game for Wanderers. In the remaining eight minutes, he was given little chance to show his talents.

Searle struck the side netting before Horseman put the result and the points beyond any doubt, two minutes from full time. It was a fine example of teamwork.

A foul on Grant on the left touchline gave Wycombe a free kick taken by Pritchard. Calling for Horseman, he arched over a superb pass to the near post

where "Bodger" swivelled and glanced a header past Miles and Grafton.

● The gate, over 1,000, was about Bromley's biggest ever on Saturday. They ran out of programmes, the car park was soon full and an urgent plea went out at half time to return tea cups as they were also in short supply!

BROMLEY: C. Grafton, D. Collins, C. Brown, R. Barbeiri, J. Miles, E. Allinson, P. Giesman, J. Brown, P. White, J. Rains (sub P. Hardy 76 mins.), A. McDermid.

WYCOMBE: D. Wright, R. Grant, D. Bullock, P. Wood, D. Gamblin, R. Williams, A. Brothers, M. Holfield (sub P. McGillicuddy 22 mins.), A. Horseman, K. Searle, L. Pritchard.

Half-time: 0-0. **Goalscorers:** Wycombe — Brothers (60), Horseman (67).

ROTHMANS ISTHMIAN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	o	d
Wycombe	5	3	0	0	8	2	11	0	0
Hendon	5	3	0	0	8	2	11	0	0
Dulwich	5	3	0	0	8	2	11	0	0
Hayes	5	3	0	0	8	2	11	0	0
Leystone	5	3	0	0	8	2	11	0	0
Bromley	5	3	0	0	8	2	11	0	0
Bishops	5	3	0	0	8	2	11	0	0
L'head	5	3	0	0	8	2	11	0	0
Walton	5	3	0	0	8	2	11	0	0
Oxford	5	3	0	0	8	2	11	0	0
Woking	5	3	0	0	8	2	11	0	0
Tooting	5	3	0	0	8	2	11	0	0
Sutton	5	3	0	0	8	2	11	0	0
Kings	5	3	0	0	8	2	11	0	0
Walslow	5	3	0	0	8	2	11	0	0
Hitchin	5	3	0	0	8	2	11	0	0
Enfield	5	3	0	0	8	2	11	0	0
St. Albans	5	3	0	0	8	2	11	0	0
Clapton	5	3	0	0	8	2	11	0	0
Barking	5	3	0	0	8	2	11	0	0
Wokingham	5	3	0	0	8	2	11	0	0
Casuals	5	3	0	0	8	2	11	0	0

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	o	d
Dagenham	3	3	0	0	10	0	9	0	0
Tilbury	3	3	0	0	10	0	9	0	0
Slough	3	3	0	0	10	0	9	0	0
Hampton	3	3	0	0	10	0	9	0	0
Aveley	3	3	0	0	10	0	9	0	0
Maidhead	3	3	0	0	10	0	9	0	0
Harwich	3	3	0	0	10	0	9	0	0
Chesham	3	3	0	0	10	0	9	0	0
Carlton	3	3	0	0	10	0	9	0	0
Horsham	3	3	0	0	10	0	9	0	0
Harlow	3	3	0	0	10	0	9	0	0
Stratford	3	3	0	0	10	0	9	0	0
Fitchley	3	3	0	0	10	0	9	0	0
Wokingham	3	3	0	0	10	0	9	0	0
Hertford	3	3	0	0	10	0	9	0	0
Southall	3	3	0	0	10	0	9	0	0